

## ABSTRACT

The present invention makes it possible to set an operating condition enabling the best recording characteristic to be obtained for any kind of recording media, even in the case where the recording medium is combined with any kind of drive devices. According to the present invention, even in the case where a unknown and new kind of recording medium is loaded into the drive device, a piece of first operating condition information for an optical system suitable for a combination of the drive device and the new kind of recording media is read from a specific read only area provided for the recording medium, and an operating condition enabling the best operating characteristic to be obtained is set by using the first operating condition information, as a result of which even in the case where any kind of recording medium and any kind of drive device are combined, the operating condition for enabling the best recording characteristic to be obtained for the recording medium, can be set in the drive device.